



# Public Health is a way of life...

- 1906** Long Beach Health Department established.
- 1907** On March 8, Board of Health formally established.
- 1918** City residents die due to Worldwide Influenza Pandemic.
- 1921** The City became a world port, receiving ships often infested with rats. A rodent extermination program was commenced to protect the City's population from the Plague.
- 1926** Smallpox reported in Long Beach. 50,000 immunizations given within a few weeks to avoid an outbreak.
- 1933** Major earthquake in Long Beach caused great damage to sewer and water systems. The Health Department worked successfully to prevent diseases caused by water contamination.
- 1937** Rabies among dogs was so prevalent that Long Beach requested that the State Board of Health place a quarantine on the city. Over 4000 dogs destroyed or otherwise disposed of during the six-month quarantine.
- 1948** Many fish canneries and food processing plants created a public health problem. WWII changed the nature of the City from a quiet resort town inhabited chiefly by retired farmers, to vacationers and military personnel.
- 1951** State of the art Public Health facility opens including City's first Public Health Laboratory.
- 1958** Diabetes early detection program initiated.
- 1963** Alcoholic Rehabilitation Center opened to serve the medical and psychological needs of alcoholic patients.
- 1960s** Health Department and National Foundation joined to establish prenatal service for low-income expectant mothers.
- 1967** Measles (rubeola) vaccine became available.
- 1969** Immunizations provided under the Maternal and Child Health Program include: diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, smallpox, polio and measles.
- 1970** Family planning program established with funding through the Long Beach Commission on Economic Opportunities.
- 1971** Long Beach becomes the 27th community in California to fluoridate its public water supply.
- 1975** Senior Center established on 4th street. Women, Infants and Children Nutrition Program (WIC) begins.
- 1976** Child Health and Disability Prevention (CHDP) program established.
- 1979** Employee Assistance Program (EAP) begins; over 50 employees from 11 City departments access services during first six months.
- 1980** New U.S. Public Health Clinic was established to provide comprehensive screening for newly arriving refugees (900 screened). High rates of internal parasites, tuberculosis and enteric diseases reported. Refugee assistance staff added to accommodate newly arrive Indochinese refugees (Six major Asian languages).
- 1984** Assembly Bill 1288, legislation enabling the City to function independently from the County, is introduced in the California legislature. In 1986, the Health Department completed its first year as an independent health jurisdiction.
- 1985** AIDS education and testing programs established.
- 1987** Citizen's task force appointed to evaluate the extent of homelessness and make recommendations. Subsequently, established a Homeless Coordinator for the city.
- 1988** Health Department reorganized into the Department of Health and Human Services. The Bureau of Human and Social Services is created. Philosophy of change was to centralize the City's social service responsibilities within one department.
- 1988** HIV Early Intervention Program established.
- 1990** Lead Program and Tobacco Education Program started.
- 1996** Health Department received HUD grant of \$3.1 million to provide Homeless Supportive Housing Services.
- 2000** Health Department receives grant funds for the purchase of a Community Health Outreach Vehicle (the "Beach Mobile") to expand mobile health services to Long Beach neighborhoods.
- 2003** Bioterrorism Program established.
- 2004** Miller Family Health Education Center opens with support from Kaiser Permanente, The California Endowment and the Miller Foundation.
- 2006** The Health Department celebrates 100 years of service to the community!